

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 IO-14 EB-11

/175 W

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R 191000Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8077

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

RUEHCGBXAMEMBASSY KIGALI 34

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IV, XJ

SUBJECT: OCAM SEC GEN COMMENTS ON NIGER, BANGUI MEETING

1. OCAM SEC GEN FALILOU KANE ARRIVED ABIDJAN APRIL 16 FROM DAKAR. DESCRIBED AS A VERY FRANK SPEAKER, HE GAVE AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS OF INTEREST.

2. KANE WAS ASKED HIS OPINION OF EVENTS IN NIGER. HE REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION THERE, HE WAS PERSONALLY DISTRESSED ABOUT DIORI'S OVERTHROW. HE NOTED HE HAD WORKED UNDER DIORI FOR THREE YEARS WHEN THE PRESIDENT SERVED
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AS HEAD OF OCAM. DIORI INSTILLED AN ATMOSPHERE OF WORK AND

DISCIPLINE IN OCAM WHICH HAS BEEN INVALUABLE. KANE SPOKE OF HIS APPRECIATION OF DIORI AS A PERSON, A MAN OF POLITICAL STATURE. HE PRAISED THE WAY DIORI THREW HIMSELF INTO AFRICAN ISSUES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT, WITH THE CHANGE IN NIGER'S LEADERSHIP, THAT COUNTRY'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE INTERNATIONALLY WOULD CONTINUE. KANE NOTED THAT AIR AFRIQUE WOULD HAVE SPLIT APART LAST YEAR (IN IVORIAN-SENEGALESE CONFLICT OVER LEADERSHIP) HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR DIORI'S MEDIATION, AND THE SAME WAS TRUE FOR OCAM. (ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE WITH WHOM HE MET, KANE IS EXPRESSING BITTERNESS PRIVATELY OVER TREATMENT DIORI HAS RECEIVED AFTER GIVING SO MUCH OF HIMSELF TO HIS COUNTRY FOR SO LONG).

3. REFERRING TO JUNE MEETING OF OCAM HEADS OF STATE IN BANGUI, KANE SAID THAT URGENCY OF ISSUES (PRESUMABLY ORGANIZATION'S RAISON D'ETRE) WHICH LED TO CALL FOR JANUARY MEETING DAKAR DIMINISHED. THUS, DAKAR REUNION NOT HELD AND THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE BANGUI. HE IS NOW COMMENCING SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS AT SENHOR'S REQUEST WITH ALL OCAM HEADS OF STATE PRIOR TO BANGUI.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MUCH OF KANE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CARRIED OVER LOCAL RADIO/TV, WRITTEN PRESS ELIMINATED ALL REFERENCES TO DIORI'S OVERTHROW. ONE PRESS SOURCE NOTES THAT THAT PORTION CENSORED BY GOIC, WHICH WANTED NO IMPLICATIONS DRAWN BY OBSERVERS AS TO ITS POSITION. KANE HAS NOW MET WITH FONMIN SEC GEN POLNEAU AND EXPECTS TO HAVE MEETING WITH HOUPHOUET WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.
SMITH

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